

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 00760 170338Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /073 W  
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R 161522Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8172

SECDEF

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 00760

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, MAAP, NATO, UK

SUBJ: UK DEFENSE CUTS

REF: LONDON 611

1. IN AN APPARENTLY HEATED AND ACRIMONIOUS CABINET SESSION LASTING 2 1/2 HOURS ON 15 JANUARY, THE DISPUTE OVER THE LEVEL OF PROSPECTIVE CUTS IN DEFENSE SPENDING WAS RESOLVED. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL MOD SOURCES, ROY MASON IS SATISFIED -- BUT NOT OVERJOYED -- WITH THE OUTCOME. ALTHOUGH MASON "WON" HIS BATTLE AGAINST HEALEY IN THAT THE POUNDS 550 MILLION CUT SOUGHT BY TREASURY WAS AT LEAST CUT IN HALF, MOD IS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE CUTS COULD NOT BE KEPT TO NO MORE THAN 150 MILLION POUNDS. IT WILL BE SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE DETAILS ARE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED BUT WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED THEM "FAIRLY SOON". WE ADDUCE THAT WHEN THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHITE PAPER IS PUBLISHED, THE CUT FOR DEFENSE WILL BE ABOUT POUNDS 200 TO 225 MILLION. IT APPEARS LIKELY NOW THAT MAJOR PROGRAMS, SUCH AS MRCA, WILL CONTINUE RELATIVELY UNSCATHED. THE IMPACT OF THE CUTS THIS TIME WILL FALL HEAVILY ON "THE TAIL. AND HENCE REDUNDANCIES IN THE MOD

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PAGE 02 LONDON 00760 170338Z

WILL BE MASSIVE -- ESTIMATES IN EXCESS OF 10,000 HAVE

BEEN MENTIONED PUBLICLY.

SPIERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, MILITARY BUDGET, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LONDON00760  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760018-1046  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760150/aaaabsjt.tel  
**Line Count:** 64  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 LONDON 611  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UK DEFENSE CUTS  
**TAGS:** MPOL, MCAP, UK, NATO  
**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006